

WEATHER.

Cloudy, followed by snow late tonight or tomorrow; warmer tonight. Lowest temperature about 25 degrees. Temperature for twenty-four hours ended at 2 p.m. today: Highest, 35, at 2 p.m. today; lowest, 17, at 7 a.m. today. Full report on page 5.

Closing N. Y. Stocks and Bonds, Page 28

No. 28,723. Entered as second-class matter post office Washington, D. C.

\$1,000,000 THEFT FROM NAVY YARD IS CHARGED TO 23

Twenty-Two Are Arrested in New York by Federal Agents.

CLOTHING AND MATERIAL TAKEN BY TRUCK LOAD. Detectives Pose as Thieves, Are Accepted by Men, and Get Evidence.

By the Associated Press. NEW YORK, December 20.—Twenty-two civilian employees at the Brooklyn navy base were arrested today on indictments returned several months ago by a federal grand jury, charging that government property to the value of more than \$1,000,000 had been stolen since the war.

The arrests were made by agents of the Department of Justice. The grand jurors indicted twenty-three men after their investigation of the alleged wholesale thefts which the authorities said included clothing, oil and various other materials used at the navy yard. The twenty-third man under indictment was not found today. The investigation has been under way for months.

Yard Detectives Fail. Navy intelligence officers undertook to find out the cause for the discrepancies between the inventories and the stock supposed to be on hand, but the thieves were too cunning for the regular naval detective force, the members of which were apparently well known to those who were doing the stealing.

William J. Burns, chief of the bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice, then was asked for help, and ordered Edward J. Brennan, head of the bureau's New York office, to assign operatives. Brennan consulted Police Commissioner Enright and borrowed the services of Detective Francis Trainor. Under the direction of Federal Agents Robert Walsh and Ralph Navarro and Detective Trainor men were put into the warehouses as checkers, laborers, watchmen and bookkeepers.

These detectives found themselves watched narrowly until they took advantage of opportunities obviously put in their way of stealing small articles such as wrist watches and marine glasses. Not until they actually concealed these articles and were caught by the men who were to get any evidence against the men now in custody. They then learned that government property was being stolen, and the truck load, including great boxes of clothing, paint by the barrel, crates of glass and commercial alcohol by the gallon. Instances were found in which waste and salvage bought by contractors was substituted by new goods of the same kind, and it was announced the United States attorney would be asked to take steps for its recovery.

Government operators and detectives were watching the warehouse shortly after they began operations that leads of some of the departments in the city were the ring leaders in the conspiracy.

ARBuckle IS PROMISED CHANCE TO "COME BACK"

Movie Chief Says He May Appear on Screen Again—Comedian Grateful.

By the Associated Press. LOS ANGELES, Calif., December 20.—Will H. Hays, chairman of the Motion Picture Industries, said today that Roscoe C. (Fatty) Arbuckle might have his chance to "come back" in the motion picture.

Roscoe Arbuckle said: "I want to say that I am very grateful to all those who are helping me, and I will prove myself worthy of their faith in me."

Joseph Schenck, producer, said: "Roscoe will go to work for me. I am glad to give him his chance." Jesse L. Lasky, president of Famous Players-Lasky Corporation, said: "We are sure Arbuckle will prove worthy of the trust. No thought has been given to the matter of releasing the pictures already made and we have no plans in this connection."

The statement of the case as given out from the headquarters of Mr. Hays said: "Roscoe Arbuckle is to have another chance to go to work and make good in the picture business."

Kemal Permits Americans to Reopen Schools

By the Associated Press. LAUSANNE, December 20.—Ismet Pasha received a message from Mustafa Kemal today announcing that the American College at Smyrna, which was closed during the fighting there, may reopen and that the national government has no objection to the American schools carrying on their work in any part of Turkey.

Ismet Pasha immediately advised the American correspondents at the east conference of this official action by the Ankara government.

PARIS IS ADAMANT ON REPARATION CUT. Insists Allied Debts Must Be Reduced at Same Time.

BRITAIN BACKS BALFOUR Wave of Recrimination Against United States Sweeps Great Britain.

By the Associated Press. PARIS, December 20.—Any plan, even if American, which contemplates a reduction of German reparations without a corresponding reduction of allied war debts will be resolutely rejected by France, according to this correspondent's information.

The American scheme, which, as now described here, is first to reduce the German debt and then to make a loan to Germany, is therefore certain to be rejected unless its form is so modified as to spare French opinion and to create the impression that the sacrifices demanded are general and are not to be laid exclusively on the shoulders of France.

WOULD PUNISH AMERICA. BY HAL O'LEAHRY. (By Cable to The Star and Chicago Daily News, Copyright, 1922.)

LONDON, December 20.—During the extraordinary flurry here over the possible intervention of the United States in European politics and finance, the Balfour note in which the part played by the American government in war-time finance was compared to that of Shylock demanding the pound of flesh.

Those references have made it painfully evident to Americans in Europe that Lord Balfour's terrible misconception of the nature of the American loan to the allies not only persists in England and in France, but is made the basis of new efforts to persuade the Balfour hypothesis as basically sound, to write off her credits to the allied nations.

"Make America Pay." Back of the recent reports of an American chance to accept any plan of the Balfour note in which the part played by the American government in war-time finance was compared to that of Shylock demanding the pound of flesh.

Some of the missing material was said to have been located in warehouses in Brooklyn and Manhattan and it was announced the United States attorney would be asked to take steps for its recovery.

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CRISIS IS REACHED AT LAUSANNE WITH STRAITS ISSUE UP

Americans Disagree With Allies, Desiring Out-and-Out Freedom for Waterways.

TURKS MUST SANCTION OR REFUSE PLAN TODAY U. S. Stand Stiffens Moslem Position and Nervous Tension Reigns at Parley.

By the Associated Press. LAUSANNE, December 20.—On the eve of what threatened to be a critical day in the life of the Lausanne conference, Ambassador Child last night had a long conversation with Ismet Pasha about the straits problem, which Lord Curzon yesterday declared must be disposed of immediately.

It has become known that the American observers at the conference believe that an international control commission associated with the league of nations, as suggested in the allied plan for supervision of the Dardanelles, is unnecessary. In other words, the Americans believe that freedom of the straits should be an actual freedom guaranteed by a treaty between Turkey and the other powers, and that it should not be a freedom limited by an international commission.

The American observers have so far on the conference floor limited themselves to statements of the most general terms of the Dardanelles question, without suggesting as to how the straits should be kept open to the shipping of the world and to the fleets of the powers. Neither have there been intimations as to America's attitude toward international control.

Definite Stand Demanded. Allied leaders last night served notice that the Turks today must either flatly accept or reject the allied project for settlement of the straits question. Failure of the Dardanelles negotiations, it is believed, will hardly affect the other problems which the conference was called to solve.

Nevertheless the atmosphere before the hour the last session of the straits problem was to open was one of high nervous tension with the fear expressed in some conference quarters that the reported American position to the straits commission plan was stiffening the Turks not to the straits question, but also in vital questions like the customs tariff and minorities.

The British experts, Admiral Keyes and Gen. Burnett-Stuart, already have left for England, believing their work to have been completed, and the French experts are preparing to depart tonight for discussion of the straits. Whether a rupture will come on the straits problem depends chiefly on whether the entente diplomats and their experts can reach the Turkish fears. This they are trying to do.

The diplomats are endeavoring to convince the Ankara government that the straits project is essentially framed to meet conditions in times of peace, and that it does not in any manner constitute a hidden manner seeking facilities for war, and especially against Turkey. The straits project, they say, sought the equality of all fleets passing through the straits on peaceful errands. They claim that the straits project cannot accept the Turkish request for the suppression of submarines and military airplanes, especially they have been unable to accept the Ottoman suggestion that combined foreign fleets entering the Black sea shall not exceed the strength of the fleet of the strongest naval power of the Black sea. That would make the Black sea a "closed" sea, said a French expert last night.

The Russians are in a fighting mood, and the straits project is the argumentative force yesterday. He tried to win American sympathy for the Russian project by insisting that it incorporated the American idea of "beneficial warships."

But the allies agreed that the Moslem straits plan is absolutely unacceptable. Tchitcherine made a dramatic plea to the world powers, saying that the world must be back of Russia in her attempts to secure international justice, and further recommended what he called "marinism," adding, "I mean the sea militarism which hopes to strangle Russia."

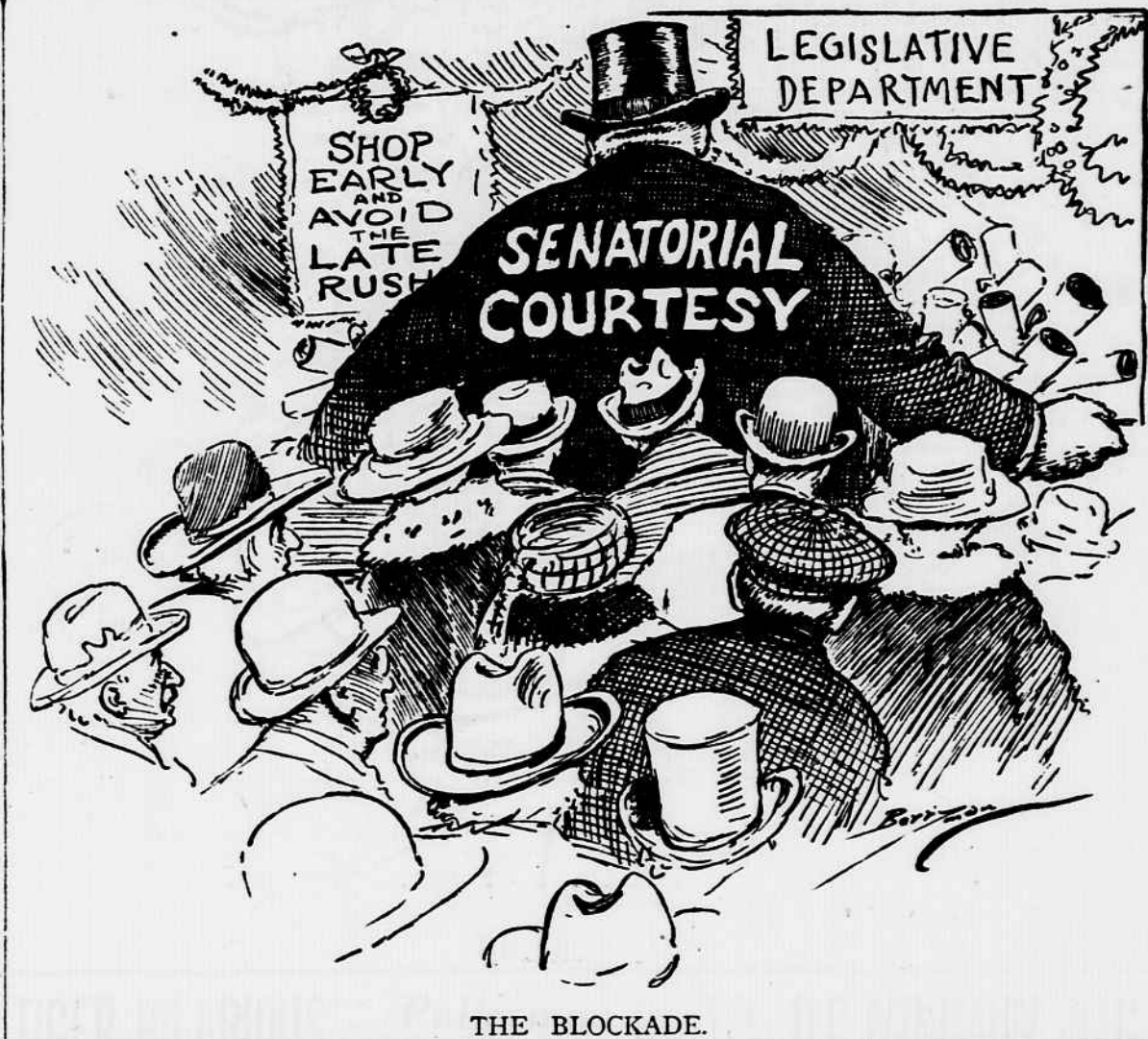
Declines to Be Photographed. During the trip across, when the weather permitted, the ex-premier often strolled about the decks, chatting with many of the passengers. His appetite continued good throughout the voyage, with always the four boiled eggs and one big grapefruit for breakfast, while his other meals were equally hearty.

Among the many packages in charge of his valet, Albert Boulin, are two cases of grapefruit. "I shall live as long as I can on grapefruit," he said. "I love them too much to die before eating them. Anyway, they are certain contraband."

The "Tiger" declined to be photographed on landing. "No, I won't," he exclaimed when the newspaper camera men asked him to pose. "I have suffered a thousand times. It is enough." He also denied interviews to the correspondents who boarded the Paris at Plymouth last night.

As he walked down the gangplank this morning the crowd on the docks cheered. He got into the front seat of a waiting limousine, chatted with the chauffeur a moment and then was driven toward Paris.

NEW SOLICITOR NAMED. Stephen B. Davis of New Mexico was nominated by the President today to be solicitor of the Department of Commerce.



TIGER, HILARIOUS, IS BACK IN FRANCE

Clemenceau Hopes for Good Results From Visit to United States.

By the Associated Press. HAVRE, France, December 20.—Georges Clemenceau arrived home from his American pilgrimage today in the hilarious mood, but apparently suffering from fatigue.

The "Tiger" received representatives of France in his cabin as the liner was entering port. A large crowd of relatives and friends, as well as the correspondents and photographers, also greeted him before the steamer docked. Clemenceau began his visit with the newspaper men by denying various impressions printed in the French press, particularly one sent from New York to the Petit Parisien.

Had Stormy Voyage. The former premier had a very stormy voyage. He appeared gay and vivacious, but under the surface his friends saw that his experience in the United States had been almost too much for him. He will go to his Paris home for two weeks and then take a long rest at his country place in the Vendee at St. Vincent du Jar.

"I hope for good results from my trip to the United States," said M. Clemenceau to the Associated Press. "However, let the people decide. I put my thought fully before them, and they have certainly got sense enough to judge. It was apparent that there was a vast amount of interest in me personally, for which I am most grateful. The straits question, I think, was the center of the morning session of the committee."

Mr. Woodruff asked the committee to obtain a letter which he said had been written to Secretary Weeks of the War Department by Charles Hayes, a director of the Wright-Martin Corporation, in relation to the claim. This letter the Michigan representative said he had been brought to bear to show filing of the suit. Representative Thomas, democrat, Kentucky, suggested the committee take no action on the request.

Mr. Woodruff read into the record letters which he said showed that the Wright-Martin case had been sent to the Justice Department by the War Department on October 26, 1921, and that the federal district attorney at New York was directed on November 15 of the same year by Assistant Attorney General Lovett to take such action as in his opinion might be necessary to recover the amount of the government's claim.

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Policeman in Air Detects Speeder, Drops Summons

By the Associated Press. SAN JOSE, Calif., December 20.—Bad luck literally rained on Dominic Biffore yesterday when a "John Doe" summons charging him with speeding fell in front of his automobile on a highway near here. Looking up he saw an airplane circling above.

It developed that Robert Byers, traffic officer, was "taking the air" with an aviator friend when he saw Biffore speeding. Pulling a summons from his pocket, Byers had the airplane swoop down and dropped the paper in front of the automobile. Biffore stopped and picked it up.

\$3,601,715 CLAIM TO BE FILED BY U. S.

Proposed Suit Against Wright-Martin Co. Revealed in Daugherty Hearing.

The Department of Justice is preparing to file suit against the Wright-Martin Aircraft Corporation for recovery of a war claim amounting to \$3,601,715, the House Judiciary committee was told today by Assistant Attorney General Seymour at the hearing on the impeachment charges against Attorney General Daugherty.

Mr. Seymour said there had been a wide difference of opinion among lawyers in the war claims section of the Justice Department as to the case, but that decision had been reached recently to begin action. He did not go into detail nor indicate how soon the government would be ready to go into court.

Letter Is Sought. The activities of the government in its past investigation of the Wright-Martin contract were aired in some detail at the hearing, however, the case holding the center of the stage during most of the morning session of the committee.

Representative Woodruff republican, Michigan, appearing in connection with charges he has made regarding war frauds prosecution, declared he was prepared to show that a year ago Guy D. Goff, then assistant attorney general, had been in contact with the company's contract and recommended action.

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D.C. MINIMUM WAGE AGAIN HELD INVALID

Justice Hoehling's Ruling Speeds Case Toward U. S. High Court for Test.

There is now no minimum wage law in the District of Columbia. Justice Hoehling of the District Supreme Court today signed a final order declaring the act of Congress which attempted to protect the lives, health and morals of women and minor children by establishing a minimum wage board to regulate the wages to be paid them. The court order is in conformity with the recent decision of the District Court of Appeals holding the law unconstitutional.

Two Orders Signed. There are two cases pending in court in which orders were signed. One is brought by the Children's Hospital, which claimed it could not pay the high rate fixed by the board to its female employees, and the other by Willis A. Lyons, a female elevator operator at Congress Hall Hotel, who asserted her means of livelihood had been taken away by the act. Attorneys Ellis & Ferguson appeared for the plaintiffs.

The order signed today by Justice Hoehling reads: "This case came on to be heard at the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia, to be heard on the bill of complaint, answer to rule to show cause and other pleadings, and motions to dismiss the bill of complaint, the parties not desiring to plead further or to add facts or evidence, and the matter having been presented to the court by counsel for both parties and considered by the court, it is this 20th day of December, 1922, adjudged, ordered and decreed as follows:

Conflict With Constitution. "1. That the act of Congress entitled, 'An act to protect the lives and health and morals of women and minor workers in the District of Columbia, and to establish a minimum wage board, and to define its powers and duties, and to provide for the fixing of minimum wages for such workers, and for other purposes,' (Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

DENIES SHE IS "DOLLAR PRINCESS" AND GREEK THRONE IS HER GOAL

By the Associated Press. NEW YORK, December 20.—Princess Anastasia of Greece, arriving on the Olympic today for a visit to her native land, at once set about the business of scotch-ing the "American dollar princess" legend which has followed her since she married Prince Christopher, brother of King Constantine of Greece.

Standing beside her royal spouse, who came along for a sightseeing tour, Princess Anastasia declared that she had no ambition to be king, and that she had no wish to ascend the throne.

She declared herself a neutral in Greek politics, asserting that aside from purely family sympathies—which naturally followed the fortunes of the royal family into which she had married—she had no interest in politics whatever.

Constantine, who has abdicated, has not the slightest wish to return to the throne, she said. She added that she had no wish and no expectation of ascending the throne with Christopher. Prince Christopher backed his wife up in her statement that her aspirations did not tend toward the throne.

"I have no ambition to be king," she declared. "Moreover, I might or might not be king, but I have no wish to ascend the throne."

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Plans Law to Make Alimony Dodgers Work

By the Associated Press. NEW YORK, December 20.—Dr. Anna W. Hockfelder, lawyer and recent candidate for state senate, aims to disrupt the "Alimony Club" at the Ludlow Street jail, where ex-husbands, unwilling or unable to contribute to their ex-wives, live in idleness.

Her plan, as she outlined it, is simple. "That's the remedy," she said. "So, she asserts, she will ask the next legislature to amend the alimony laws, making it compulsory for jailed ex-husbands to work, the proceeds from their labor to be turned over to the ex-wives."

HEARINGS NEARING END ON D. C. BILL

Probably Will Be Closed Tomorrow or Next Day at Latest.

Chairman Cramton Explains Failure to Receive Committee of Citizens.

Hearings on the District appropriation bill for the next fiscal year probably will be closed tomorrow or the next day. Although the general policy of the subcommittee conducting these hearings is not to go beyond the District budget, as recommended by the budget bureau, there is strong probability that in some particular items, such as school, streets and sewers, some increases may be written into the bill.

Chairman Cramton of the subcommittee, who has been severely criticized yesterday by Henry H. Glassie, chairman of the citizens' school improvement committee, and Milton Fairchild, a member of the committee, explained today that he could not consistently grant a hearing when he had already refused to allow representatives from other organizations to be heard on the same subject in some instances from appearing before the committee.

Two Members Absent. The subcommittee, which is holding hearings on the District budget, consists of Representative Cramton of Michigan, as acting chairman; Representative Evans of Nebraska; and Representative Johnson of Kentucky. The other two members of the subcommittee are unavoidably absent. Representative Tinkham of Massachusetts is out of the city and Representative Buchanan of Texas is engaged on another subcommittee, but probably will sit in with the District subcommittee when the bill reaches its final stage.

This District subcommittee yesterday completed hearings on the schools and streets and sewers bill. Today it finished work on the sewer bill.

Test of President's Strength. But the administration has realized that if it were unable to force its own pet measure to a vote it would be a confession of incompetence which would make it impossible to get any other legislation through this Congress or perhaps the next. The test has meant a great deal to Mr. Harding. His lieutenants in the Senate have made good use of this line of reasoning; they have said that if the administration is so weak that it cannot get a bill passed, it is not fit to govern.

Vote Expected to Be Close. Now as to the final tally, it will be very close. The proponents of the measure think they have a comfortable margin, and they insist that as the debate develops they will have more votes, because republicans will have to make up their minds whether they will vote against a party measure or stand by the administration.

The demagogues have not yet shown their hand. It looks as if only one or possibly two of them will vote for the bill, but the interesting thing so far is that the demagogues have not become party to the obstructionist tactics of the insurgent republicans. The danger of such a coalition is that it might work both ways and that measures which the demagogues may want to be blocked would be blocked by the demagogues.

Two Democratic Camps. Another phase of the situation is the two camps in the democratic party, the one interested in radically obstructing whatever it is possible to obstruct so as to hurt the republican party's chances at all cost and the other, more conservatively inclined, which fears that all progress in government will be blocked unless they stand with the conservative republicans and prevent "bloc" rule by the radicals.

The administration is thoroughly satisfied with the "bloc" bill as it stands in the Senate. In fact, it is preferred over the House bill. The principal changes made by the Senate are in the limitation of the amount that can be expended for subsidy to \$30,000,000, the cost of which would not run over that sum anyway, so the amendment is acceptable. The other change, which eliminates the annual appropriations and authorizations, is also satisfactory, as shippers can buy reefer space with an assurance of continuous government aid.

Elect Wojciechowski President of Poland. Voters Chose Him to Succeed Dr. Gabriel Narutowicz, Who Was Slain Saturday.

By the Associated Press. WARSAW, December 20.—Stanislas Wojciechowski was elected President of Poland today to succeed Dr. Gabriel Narutowicz, who was assassinated last Saturday.

SHIP BILL TO PASS WITHIN FOUR NIGHTS, PRESIDENT IS TOLD

Senate Leaders Predict Harding Victory in Fight of His Career.

PARTISAN LINES MAY GO IN FIGHT ON BLOC RULE

Fear of Legislative State-Mate Inclines Conservatives of Both Parties to Stand Together.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE. The ship subsidy bill will pass the Senate within the next fortnight, according to the advice given the administration within the last twenty-four hours by leaders who have made a careful canvass of the whole situation.

The fight to displace the ship subsidy measure with a farm credits bill has been going on for several days, with the administration getting stronger and stronger. Although President Harding ostensibly has been absorbed in dealing with the delicate problems of European economics, the truth is he has been making the fight of his career to mold the republicans into a solid unit as against the obstructionists of the various "blocs."

Seek to Counteract Filibusters. There are some senators who do not favor the subsidy bill itself and who will vote against it on final passage, but the administration has succeeded in convincing many of them that irrespective of the merits of the subsidy bill they ought not to lend themselves to the campaign of the filibusters and obstructionists who have sought to keep the bill from coming to a vote.

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